

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 8-10 are rejected as obvious over the Ochiai reference in view of the Kobayashi reference. This is a Final Rejection. Nevertheless, Kobayashi is newly cited.

Kobayashi is cited to show a foamed roller. A different reference was cited for that purpose in the prior rejection. The only elaboration on the content of Kobayashi in the rejection is the following: "Kobayashi disclose a roller [20] using a foamed resin coating."

It is hereby respectfully pointed out that the Kobayashi reference is deficient with respect to the claims for two separate reasons, each on which is decisive to establish patentability of the claims.

The first basis distinguishing Kobayashi is that the foam of Kobayashi is not restricted to its interior. Claim 1, the only independent claims at issue expressly requires "no bubbles of said foam at the outside of said roller." Kobayashi clearly shows in Fig. 8 bubbles extending to the surface of the roller. Kobayashi as a whole in no way suggests that its foam somehow has a discernable pattern of bubbles. No description of the distribution of the foam bubbles is given in Kobayashi other than the term "closed-cell foam" (used several times) and Fig. 8.

The second basis distinguishing Kobayashi is that the foam of Kobayashi is in no respect magnetic. A magnetic material is clearly required by the claims. The foam of Kobayashi is to provide a yielding surface while being closed to prevent toner from entering the roller. Thus, col. 2., l. 23-27 of Kobayashi read: "When a toner supply roller consists of closed-cell foam rubber free from internal toner clogging, the toner

coating/removal performance with respect to the sleeve, and triboelectric charging performance of the toner can be satisfactorily maintained . . . ."

The Final Rejection references roller 20 of Kobayashi. Although element 20 is a magnetic roller (see col. 15, l. 41-45), that is not foam. The foam is formed around roller 20 (Col. 15, l. 44-45 read: "closed-cell foam is formed on the surface of the magnetic roller.") This is shown as the element having reference numeral 26 in Fig. 9, although the reference numeral 26 is not in the discussion of Fig. 9 and is used to identify the entire supply roller in the discussion of Fig. 5 and is applied to the entire roller in Fig. 8.

Since the Kobayashi foam has no particular magnetic function or characteristic, no suggestion can be found to combine its teaching with the teaching of the solid magnetic roller of Ochiai. The Final Rejection is silent as to any suggestion or motivation for such a combination.

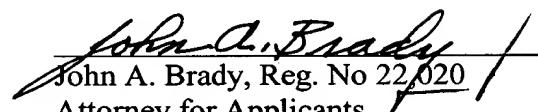
In fact, Kobayashi teaches away from the instant invention since it shows a solid magnetic core and foam with bubbles only outside the core.

The other references cited are applied to elements of dependent claims and therefore could not overcome the deficiencies of the rejection of claim 1 discussed in the foregoing.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1-10, all of the pending claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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